

**INFORMATION BULLETIN: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

The following topics have been identified as being of interest to the Committee. Councillors wanting further information on any of the items in this Bulletin are advised to contact Paul Finbow, Corporate Finance Specialist by telephone on 01473 265288, or via email [paul.finbow@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:paul.finbow@suffolk.gov.uk) .

**CSD**

1. On 1 June 2014 the contract for back office services with Customer Service Direct came to an end. This covered services including Finance, ICT, HR and Customer Services. Existing staff were transferred to the council and supplier contracts were also novated.
2. To date, the thorough preparation of the change is paying off and all services transitioned from CSD to the new arrangements seamlessly with no disruption in service.

**GOVERNANCE UPDATE****Draft Regulations on Scheme Governance**

3. On 23 June 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) launched its consultation on the future governance arrangements for managing Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS). These changes are required to meet the requirements of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013, and will likely lead to the creation of Pensions Boards to oversee the work of the Pension Committee and the administering authority to ensure good governance and the requirements of the Pensions Regulator are met.
4. A full copy of the consultation document can be found in Appendix 1. The closing date for this consultation is 15 August 2014.
5. Following the closure of the consultation, DCLG expect to publish the new regulations by the end of September to ensure that new Pension Boards will be set up by 1 April 2015.
6. Discussions are already underway with the council's Monitoring Officer to plan for the creation of a Pensions Board and to undertake the appointment process to it. The work of the Pensions Board and that of the existing Pensions Committee will be reviewed to ensure that each body are fulfilling their separate duties under the regulations. This will likely lead to some existing reports that were previously considered by the Pension Committee, in the future, being considered by the Pensions Board.

7. A further paper will be brought to the November Pension Fund Committee meeting setting out the changes that will be required. A similar paper will be considered by the constitution working group in November, with a recommendation being considered by the full County Council in December 2014.

## **INVESTMENT UPDATE**

### **M&G Investment**

8. At the committee meeting on 2 June 2014, a decision was made to invest £15 million into the M&G Debt Opportunities Fund II. All paperwork relating to this investment has been completed and received by M&G.

### **Pension Fund Custodian Services**

9. The officers of the Pension Fund are now actively working with HSBC in planning the transition exercise for the transfer of the custodian services from State Street to HSBC on the 1 October 2014.

<b><u>SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION</u></b>
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